

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043777

FOLLOWING SENT HONG KONG INFO SECSTATE WASHDC CHIANG MAI
RANGOON VIENTIANE BNDD HQS WASHDC FROM BANGKOK 08 MAR 73:

QUOTE BANGKOK 3786

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, HK, XC

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF HONG KONG COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS - ROLPH

BNDD HQS PASS BELK/ IA

REF: HONG KONG 1768, HONG KONG 1859, HONG KONG 1898

1. COMMISSIONER ROLPH CALLED ON BANGKOK MISSION OFFICERS
FEB. 27, HAD EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS WITH DCM MASTERS,
BNDD RD DICK AND US CUSTOMS AGENT SAMADUROFF. ROLPH EX-
PLAINED THAT HIS MISSION WAS TO INVESTIGATE ANY AND ALL
POSSIBILITIES FOR REDUCING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC COMING
OUT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AT ITS SOURCE, BEFORE IT ENTERED
THE HONG KONG AREA. ROLPH SAID THAT HONG KONG HAD FOR
TOO LONG LOOKED INWARD IN ORDER TO SOLVE ITS DRUG ABUSE
PROBLEM, AND THAT HE NOW IS ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP CON-
TACTS IN THE TRI- COUNTRY GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA SO THAT
HONG KONG CAN IN THE FUTURE WORK HAND- IN- HAND WITH EN-
FORCEMENT AND OTHER PROGRAMS DIRECTED AT THE SOURCE OF
HONG KONG' S ILLICIT SUPPLY.

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2. ROLPH LISTED AS HIS MAJOR INTERESTS GREATER CO-ORDINATION WITH US AND OTHER ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WHO ARE MOVING AGAINST TRAWLER TRAFFIC, AND IN POSTING LIAISON OFFICER AT BRITISH EMBASSY BANGKOK OR CONSULATE CHIANG MAI TO WORK WITH THAI AND US NARCOTICS AGENTS AND TO SUPPLY HONG KONG POLICE WITH OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ON TRAFFICKERS. ROLPH SAID HE WAS ALSO VERY INTERESTED TO CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS AND, IF EFFECTIVE, IN PREEMPTIVE BUYS.

3. ROLPH WAS ALSO INTENT ON GENERATING MORE INTEREST IN THE BRITISH MISSION IN BANGKOK CONCERNING THE NARCOTICS SITUATION. AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI REPORTS THAT AS A RESULT OF ROLPH'S VISIT BRITISH CONSUL IN CHIANG MAI INDICATED HIS EMBASSY WAS TAKING GREATER INTEREST IN NARCOTICS PROBLEM. ROLPH ALSO SENT MESSAGE TO HONG KONG DURING HIS VISIT INQUIRING INTO POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASE OF RED KIDNEY BEANS BEING GROWN IN NORTH THAILAND AS SUBSTITUTE CROP.

4. ROLPH WILL RETURN TO BANGKOK ON OR ABOUT MARCH 12 FOLLOWING VIENTIANE VISIT, AND WE HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO DISCUSS WITH HIM ANY PROPOSALS HE MAY HAVE FOLLOWING HIS TOUR D' HORIZON. UNGER UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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